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Mapping evidence on integrated conservation and health projects worldwide: an appeal for help in identifying past and ongoing interventions

Protection of biodiversity is fundamental to human wellbeing,¹ and, in turn, serving human health in medically underserved areas can sometimes strengthen biodiversity conservation.² We are collecting information for a systematic evidence map of interventions worldwide that are, or have been, integrating action on health and conservation (eg, medical services for communities around reserves; park ranger occupational health; population–health–environment projects; in situ conservation of endangered wild medicinal plants; habitat protection to reduce zoonotic spillover; etc). We are involved in such projects with partner communities around the Gunung Palung National Park in Indonesia,³ Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in Uganda,⁴ and Wanang Conservation Area in Papua New Guinea.² We believe an open access evidence map on such interventions in both terrestrial² and marine habitats⁵ would be useful, especially to those setting up new projects in the expanding Planetary Health movement.

Projects range from basic health interventions bolted on to pre-existing conservation programmes as a tactic to generate goodwill (eg, vaccination rounds bordering national parks) to complex schemes to synergise action on health and biodiversity which might be driven (and funded) by concerns for human welfare as much as conservation. However, our mapping so far indicates many of these interventions are carried out by non-governmental

organisations in response to local needs and are not subsequently published in the academic literature. We are therefore reaching out to the wider Planetary Health community to help us find and map projects, especially those that might only ever have been published in grey literature, or not reported at all.

You can help in two ways. Firstly, if you have been or are involved in such a project (big or small) we want to hear about it. We are not evaluating projects, simply mapping where they are or were, what they have been doing, and what data are available about them. The easiest option to provide information for the map is to fill in our 20–30 minute online form. It covers the following: project location and dates, project background, human health and conservation components, and project outcomes. Alternatively, if you suggest a date and time, we can have a phone or Zoom call if that is easier for you. Secondly, we would be grateful if you could forward this Correspondence to others who might be able to contribute. Thank you.

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